

these children should not be left hostage any longer to elected officials breaking their promises.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to sign the welfare reform today and truly end welfare as we know it.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES, NOT NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN ADS

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when this country has the lowest voter turnout of any major country and millions of Americans are giving up on the political process, it is imperative that the presidential candidates in this election focus their attention on the real issues facing the middle class and the working families and not devote their energy to negative 30-second television ads.

□ 1030

This country has some terribly serious problems, and the American people want to hear those problems discussed. For example, why does this Nation have the most unfair distribution of wealth and income of all industrialized nations on Earth? Why is the gap between the rich and the poor growing wider while the middle class continues to shrink?

What do we do to reverse the trend by which real wages for working people continue to decline and today are 16 percent less than they were 20 years ago with workers now working longer and longer hours just to provide for their families?

What do we do about the reality that most of the new jobs that are being created are poverty level jobs? Let us talk about the real issues.

CHILDREN ARE WAITING FOR WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, how much longer should America wait before we rescue the millions of children who are trapped in poverty by the current welfare system?

Shouldn't we be encouraging work, marriage, and family instead of discouraging them?

How many more children, communities, and cities must we lose to poverty and violence before we say enough is enough?

When it comes to welfare reform, President Clinton has become the maybe man.

Maybe he'll end welfare as we know it and maybe he won't.

Should we trust what the President has said?

Or should we judge the President by what he's done?

The President's record on welfare is two vetoes and delays and denials of waivers for States to pursue innovative solutions.

This week Congress will pass welfare reform for the third time.

Will the third time prove the charm . . . or will the President strike out? The children are waiting.

A NEW WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, America's communities are being terrorized by lunatics. Our law enforcement officers are the ones who are on the front line trying to bring back some tranquility to America's public places. Our law enforcement officers today look like Wyatt Earp. They really do not have any more technology than Wyatt Earp had except they have a car instead of a horse. We could fix that.

We have all sorts of cold war technology taxpayers have paid for that should be opened up to law enforcement and move out there so we fight crime much smarter. If we could trace everything in the world, we ought to be able to trace explosives, and we know how to trace explosives.

It is outrageous that this Congress might think about going home before we deal with this issue. One of the primary reasons for the Congress, according to the Constitution, is to deal with the domestic tranquility. Let us deal with that before we adjourn. Let us open up that wonderful storehouse of research and development that we have paid for for the cold war for this new war on terrorism.

COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, when President Bill Clinton says that the welfare system is broken, he's absolutely right. Every year, the Government spends more and more money on welfare.

Today, Government spends 1,600 percent more on welfare than they did in 1950 while the population of this country has only increased 72 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it all boils down to common sense.

Common sense tells us that welfare has been a colossal failure—as President Clinton says, the system is broken. Common sense also tells that money is simply not the answer—welfare may give people money but it takes away something far more precious.

It is now time for this Government to exercise a little common sense of its own. Congress will soon give the President a genuine welfare reform package.

It is real; it is common sense; and it honors the basic values of work, family, and personal responsibility.

We hope that Bill Clinton will do the right thing and sign commonsense welfare reform.

THE ISSUE OF TERRORISM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday Congress is scheduled to go into recess, but I do not think we should be recessing unless we address or until we address the issue of terrorism. I have to tell you that right now my constituents in the phone calls to my office are overwhelming that people are concerned and want the Congress and the President to get together on a bipartisan basis to address the issue.

It is not something that is just in other countries now. Clearly, because of the TWA crash, because of the explosion in Atlanta at the Olympics, people feel, and I think rightly so, that they cannot be safe and that we need to address the issue of terrorism.

Basically, the President this week convened a bipartisan leadership meeting to discuss the steps that are necessary to fight against terrorism. As was mentioned by some of the previous speakers, we do have certain tools at hand which we really have not used and we can use on the Federal basis to try to get at the problem.

Mentioned was the expanding the power to use wire tapping, also certain tracers or taggants, as they are called in explosives. These things need to be addressed, and we have to do them before we recess.

THE WELFARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last night, each Member had the August 12 issue of the New Republic delivered to our offices.

As everyone knows, the New Republic is a very liberal magazine.

Yet this magazine had a lead editorial entitled "Sign It," urging the President to sign the welfare reform bill.

The President earlier vetoed a welfare reform bill that passed the Senate 87 to 12.

The current bill passed the Senate 74 to 24 and passed by a very large margin in this House.

The New Republic says this bill "will, finally, start the process by which America's underclass problem can be solved."

The editors said the block grant structure of this bill "is likely to point the way to ending the 'culture of poverty.'"

This is a really significant endorsement, Mr. Speaker.